

**CLAIMS:** The following is a listing of all claims in the application with their status and the text of all active claims.

1-18 (CANCELLED)

19. (CANCELLED)

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system as claimed in claim [19] 28, wherein at least one of said empty reproductions has been created in one of the following plurality of ways [~~said empty reproductions might have been created by a plurality of ways, such as for example one of the following~~]:

- filtering full reproductions of the target language, so that the phonetic information of such full reproductions is eliminated or greatly reduced, while at the same time the prosodic information of said full reproductions is maintained,
- linking syllable sounds, [~~such as for example "la la la..." or other syllables that might be~~ wherein said syllable sounds are either equal or different to each other,
- after full reproductions, [~~in such as way that all the vocalic sounds are replaced by~~ replacing the vocalic sounds with the same vowel, so that the empty reproductions have a similar prosody to the prosody that those full reproductions have,
- linking sounds whose wave form is periodic, [~~such as for example pure tones or vocalic sounds,~~]
- after full reproductions, [~~by~~] removing consonants so that only vocalic sounds remain, and the resulting reproductions have a similar prosody to the prosody that said full reproductions have,;
- ~~in any other way~~

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system as claimed in claim [19] 28, further comprising:

- means to execute one or more exercises, wherein for at least one of said exercises there exist one or more empty reproductions and one or more real samples of the target language, so that for at least one of said empty reproductions there is at least one real sample[;] among said real samples of the target language[;] that has an equivalent prosodic content, [~~wherein said exercise comprises the steps of:~~]
- [~~presenting-~~]means to present the learner with characterizing information about one or more of said real samples of the target language,
- [~~presenting-~~]means to present the learner with characterizing information about one or more of said empty reproductions,
- [~~associating-~~]means to detect the actions performed by the learner[~~,of the~~] which associate empty reproductions with the real samples of the target language that have a similar prosodic content as they have.

22. (ORIGINAL) A system as claimed in claim 21, wherein said characterizing information that is presented to the user about said real samples of target languages are the sonorous reproductions of said real samples of language, i.e., they are full reproductions.

23. (ORIGINAL) A system as claimed in claim 21, wherein said characterizing information that is presented to the user about said real samples of target language are the written transcripts of said real language samples.

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system as claimed in claim 21, wherein there exists one single empty reproduction in at least one exercise, and the learner must indicate the real sample or real samples of target language that correspond to said empty reproduction..

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system as claimed in claim 21, wherein there exists one single real sample of target language in at least one exercise, and the learner must indicate the empty reproduction or reproductions that correspond to said real sample of target language.

26 – 42 (CANCELLED)

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer readable medium containing computer executable instructions that, when executed by one or more processors of a computer, allow said one of more processors to execute the following steps:
- managing one or more empty reproductions and one or more real samples of a target language, so that for at least one of said empty reproductions there is at least one real sample, among said real samples of the target language, that has an equivalent prosodic content
  - presenting the learner with characterizing information about one or more of said real samples of the target language,
  - presenting the learner with characterizing information about one or more of said empty reproductions,
  - receiving the association performed by the learner of the empty reproductions with the real samples of the target language that have a similar prosodic content as they have.
27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable medium containing a data set that, when interpreted by one or more processors of a computer, allows said one of more processors to perform the following steps:
- managing one or more empty reproductions and one or more real samples of a target language, so that for at least one of said empty reproductions there is at least one real sample, among said real samples of the target language, that has an equivalent prosodic content
  - presenting the learner with characterizing information about one or more of said real samples of the target language,
  - presenting the learner with characterizing information about one or more of said empty reproductions
  - receiving the association performed by the learner of the empty reproductions with the real samples of the target language that have a similar prosodic content as they have.

28. (NEW) A system for facilitating language learning which is performed over a target language that can be a foreign language or the native language of the learner, said system comprising:
- a. means to produce aural reproductions that the user will listen to, said aural reproductions being full reproductions or empty reproductions, wherein
    - full reproductions correspond to real samples of the target language,
    - empty reproductions are not real samples of target language, but they contain sequences of sounds that reproduce the prosodic patterns of the target language by variations in tone, intensity or duration,
  - b. means to present the user one or more full reproductions and one or more empty reproductions, wherein at least one of said empty reproductions conveys the prosodic pattern of at least one of said full reproductions, wherein said presentation will help the user to learn the prosodic pattern of said full reproduction.
29. (NEW) A method for facilitating language learning which is performed over a target language that can be a foreign language or the native language of the learner, said system comprising the following steps:
- a. providing aural reproductions that the user will listen to, said aural reproductions being full reproductions or empty reproductions, wherein
    - full reproductions correspond to real samples of the target language,
    - empty reproductions are not real samples of target language, but they contain sequences of sounds that reproduce the prosodic patterns of the target language by variations in tone, intensity or duration,
  - b. presenting the user one or more full reproductions and one or more empty reproductions, wherein at least one of said empty reproductions conveys the prosodic pattern of at least one of said full reproductions, wherein said presentation will help the user to learn the prosodic pattern of said full reproduction.
30. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein at least one of said empty reproductions has been created in one of the following plurality of ways:
- filtering full reproductions of the target language, so that the phonetic information of such full reproductions is eliminated or greatly reduced, while at the same time the prosodic information of said full reproductions is maintained,
  - linking syllable sounds, wherein said syllable sounds are either equal or different to each other,

- after full reproductions, replacing all the vocalic sounds by the same vowel, so that the empty reproductions have a similar prosody to the prosody that those full reproductions have,
- linking sounds whose wave form is periodic,
- after full reproductions, removing consonants so that only vocalic sounds remain, and the resulting reproductions have a similar prosody to the prosody that said full reproductions have.

31. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 30, further comprising the steps of:

- providing the structure for one or more exercises, wherein for at least one of said exercises there exist one or more empty reproductions and one or more real samples of the target language, so that for at least one of said empty reproductions there is at least one real sample<sub>[i]</sub> among said real samples of the target language<sub>[i]</sub> that has an equivalent prosodic content,
- presenting the learner with characterizing information about one or more of said real samples of the target language,
- presenting the learner with characterizing information about one or more of said empty reproductions,
- detecting the associations performed by the learner of the empty reproductions with the real samples of the target language that have a similar prosodic content as they have.

32. (NEW) A system as claimed in claim 31, wherein said characterizing information that is presented to the user about said real samples of target languages are the sonorous reproductions of said real samples of language, i.e., they are full reproductions.

33. (NEW) A system as claimed in claim 31, wherein said characterizing information that is presented to the user about said real samples of target language are the written transcripts of said real language samples.

34. (NEW) A system as claimed in claim 31, wherein there exists one single empty reproduction in at least one exercise, and the learner must indicate the real sample or real samples of target language that correspond to said empty reproduction..

35. (NEW) A system as claimed in claim 31, wherein there exists one single real sample of target language in at least one exercise, and the learner must indicate the empty reproduction or reproductions that correspond to said real sample of target language.